

COUNTRY East Germany SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT NO. 25X1A

TITLE KVP Maneuvers in the Schoenebeck - Altengrabow Area

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED 17 April 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. the KVP held combined-arms maneuvers with Soviet troops in the Altengrabow area. The KVP units involved included about 2,000 infantrymen, one light and one heavy battery of artillery, one tank battalion with about 30 T-34 tanks and one engineer battalion equipped with pneumatic boats, light bridge equipment and dummy mines. The German force, which consisted mainly of elements of Armeegruppe Nord and a limited number of units of the Second Army under activation, was organized as a combined-arms blocking unit. The Soviet troops involved included about 3,000 to 4,000 infantrymen, 10 to 15 SP guns, and 20 T-34 tanks. Practiced were delaying action on both sides of Gleune against an enemy attacking from the area of Altes Lager (Steinlager), withdrawal to a second line of resistance, and active defense against the enemy by counterthrusts as well as local counterattacks against a temporarily entrenched enemy, penetration of enemy positions, withdrawal, and evacuation of wounded. Breakdowns among the tanks, 30 trucks and 12 sedans involved on the German side occurred with four trucks and two sedans whose axles broke. Fuel and rations were supplied by the Soviets.¹

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2. KVP units, which had come from Saxony and Thuringia and had participated in an exercise in the Schoenebeck area, arrived at Prenzlau. The units included 31 personnel carrier trucks including four towing field kitchens series; 13 personnel carrier trucks towing 80-mm AT guns and including Nos

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six trucks mounting 20-mm AA guns; and four SP guns mounting 120-mm tank guns. The troops observed wore red-bordered black epaulets. The trucks seen were of Horch make.²

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1. Comment. Concurrent statements indicated that no maneuvers have to date been held by KVP and Soviet troops. It would also be surprising if the KVP were already in a position to conduct combined-arms exercises that early. Since previous information indicated that the Altengrabow troop training ground was occupied by artillery units of the IV Artillery Corps

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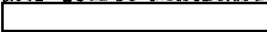
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and since no troop trains with infantry units and tanks were observed travelling in the direction of Altengrabow, the present report is doubted. A previous report by another source mentioned that a Second KVP Army was being activated. 

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2.  Comment. Units of Armeegruppe Nord probably started moving back from their winter quarters. Schoenebeck is located west of the Altengrabow troop training ground. After leaving their winter quarters in the southern districts of East Germany, the KVP units arriving at Frenzau may have moved temporarily to the Altengrabow area to participate in exercises.

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